



Utah State Courts



JUVENILE COURT REPORT CARD TO THE COMMUNITY 2013

When citizens are asked what they would like the juvenile justice system to accomplish, the message is clear. Citizens expect the justice system to further community safety, hold offenders accountable, and protect the constitutional rights of juveniles, while at the same time providing justice to victims. They also expect juvenile offenders to stop criminal behavior and become responsible and productive citizens.

Taxpayers invest significant resources in the justice system and should expect a sound return on this investment. The purpose of this report card is to provide taxpayers with an update on how Utah's juvenile justice system is performing. The Juvenile Court has established benchmarks, which are listed in this report, to inform the community on its progress in furthering safety, restoring justice for victims, and reducing the risk of re-offending.

The Juvenile Court can and should be held accountable for its performance on these measures. Through the sound use of tax dollars and the involvement of the community, greater public safety can be achieved. Working together we can build a safer and more just community.

DELINQUENCY REFERRALS



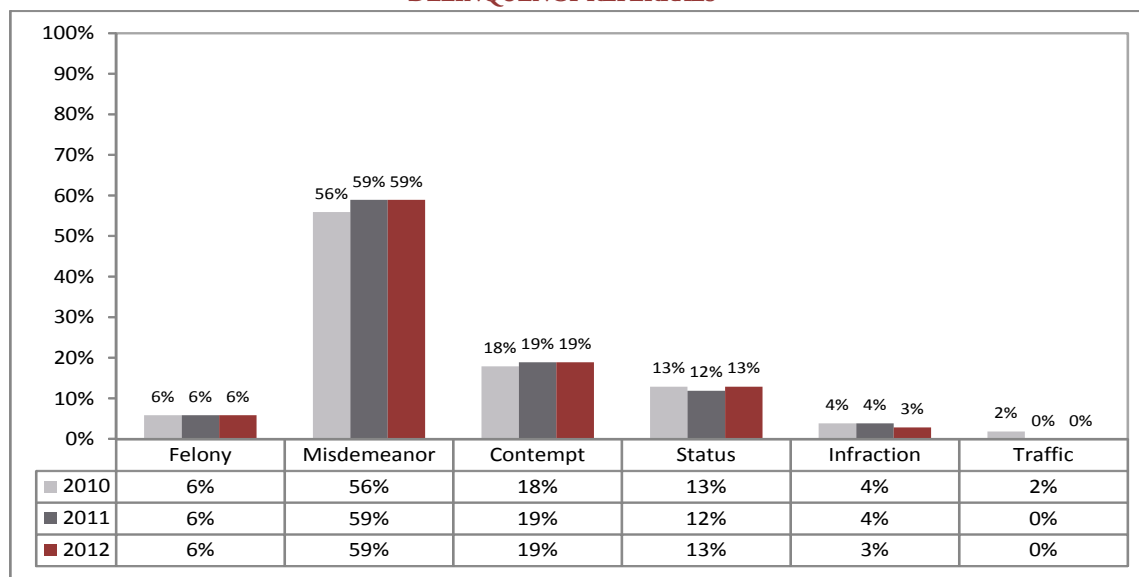
Delinquency referrals are an important measure of juvenile crime. When a juvenile commits an offense in the community, he or she may be referred to the Juvenile Court by a number of different agencies, such as the local police department or school. The type of crime determines the severity of the referral to the Juvenile Court.

There are five major severity categories for delinquency referrals: felonies, misdemeanors, contempt of court, status, and infraction. Felony-level offenses, such as burglary or robbery, are the most severe. These offenses are defined as those punishable with more than one year in prison,

if committed by an adult. Misdemeanor-level offenses, such as theft or shoplifting, are less severe offenses that would be punishable with up to one year in jail and/or a fine, if committed by an adult. Status offenses, such as truancy or tobacco possession, are offenses that would not be a violation of the law but for the age of the offender. Infractions, such as disorderly conduct or criminal trespass, are lesser offenses that are not punishable by imprisonment. Certain traffic offenses are also referred to the Juvenile Court when committed by a juvenile. In 2011, traffic offenses were re-categorized to reflect their specific offenses severity. For more information on the classification of offenses, please see the Utah Code.

Most delinquency cases referred to the Juvenile Court in 2012 were misdemeanor offenses or contempt offenses. Misdemeanor offenses accounted for 59 percent of delinquency referrals, and contempt offenses accounted for 19 percent of delinquency referrals. Felonies, the most severe type of offense, accounted for 6 percent of delinquency referrals.

DELINQUENCY REFERRALS

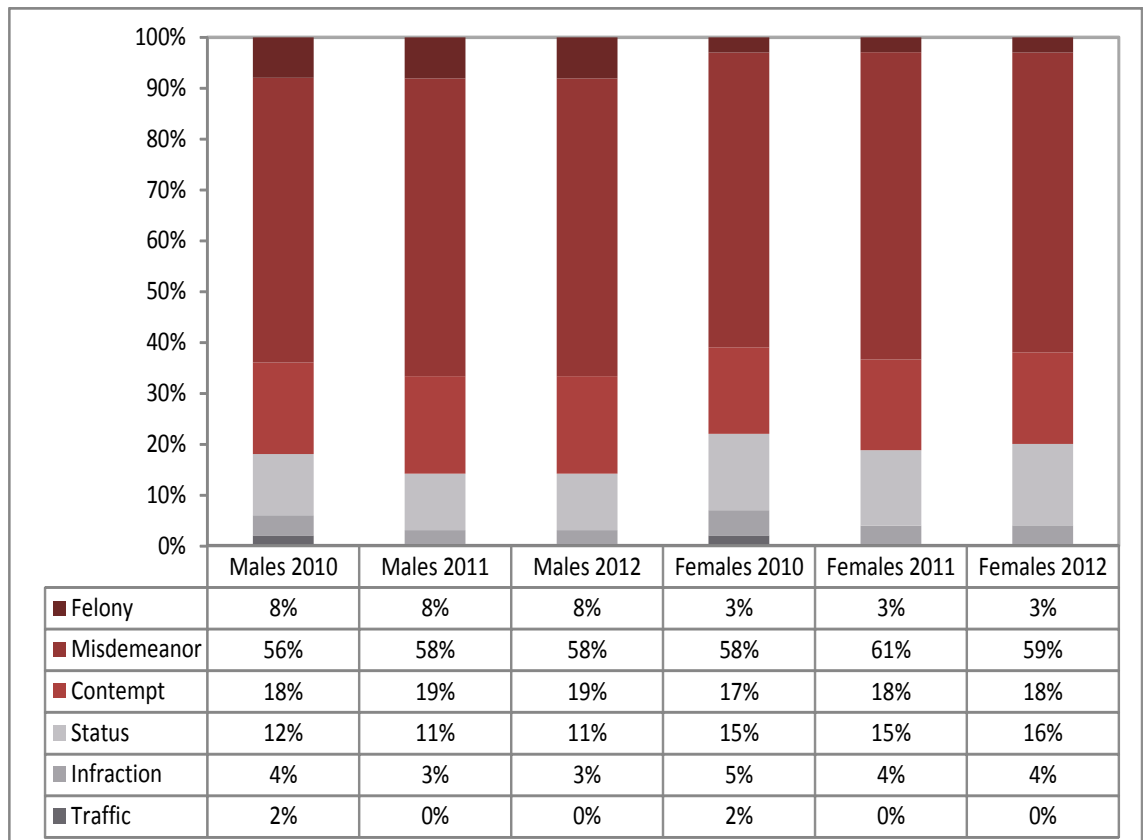


Delinquency referral rates vary for male and female juveniles. A higher percentage of referrals for females are for status offenses than for males. While 11 percent of referrals for males are for status offenses, 16 percent of referrals for females are for status offenses. In contrast, a higher percentage of referrals for males are for felony offenses than for females. Eight percent of referrals for males are for felony offenses while 3 percent of referrals for females are for felony offenses. Eight percent of referrals for males are for felony offenses while 3 percent of referrals for females are for felony offenses.

When examining cross year trends, the types of offenses committed by males was similar between 2011 and 2012. For females, the percent of referrals for misdemeanors decreased from 61 percent to 59 percent and the percent of referrals for status offenses increased slightly.



DELINQUENCY REFERRALS BY GENDER



Note: Due to rounding, totals may not equal 100 percent.

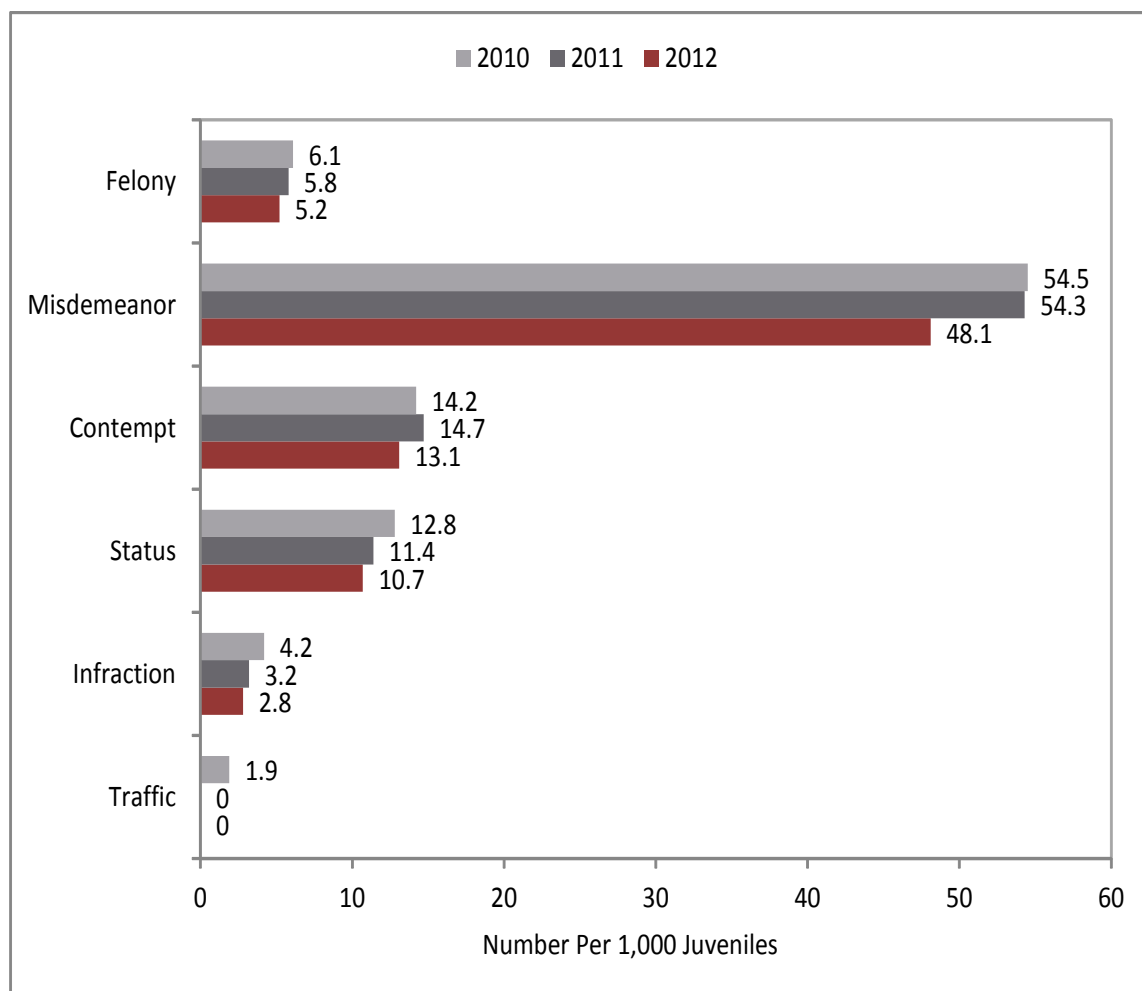
JUVENILE CRIME

Another key indicator of juvenile delinquency is the per capita rate of delinquency referrals. The per capita referral rate examines the number of delinquency referrals for youth 10 to 17 years of age per 1,000 members of the Utah population 10 to 17 years of age. This measure compares juvenile crime referral trends across years while controlling for changes in the juvenile population size.



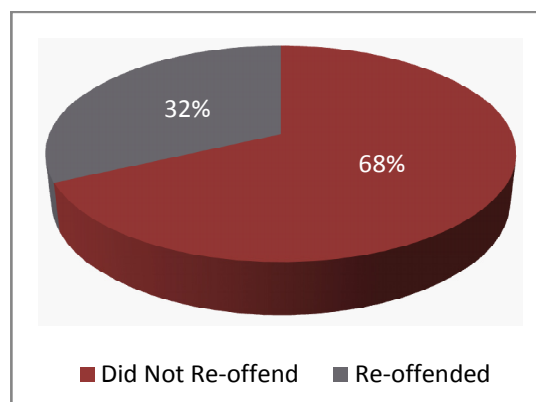
The per capita rate of felony referrals in 2012 was 5.2 per 1,000 youth, which was lower than the rate in 2011 of 5.8 felony referrals per 1,000 youth. The per capita rate of misdemeanor, contempt of court, status, and infraction referrals also declined between 2011 and 2012.

PER CAPITA REFERRAL RATES



LAW ABIDING BEHAVIOR

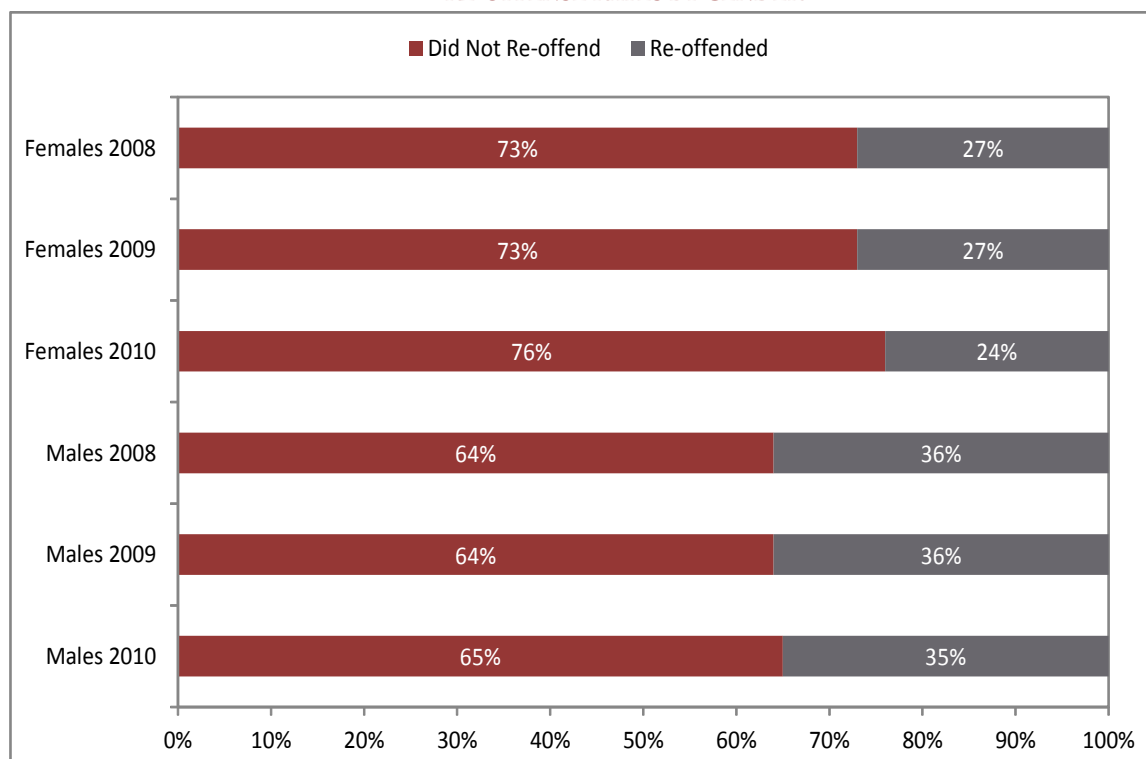
Whether or not a youth re-offends after being involved with the Juvenile Court is a valuable gauge of juvenile crime. In 2009, 67 percent of youth involved with the juvenile court for a misdemeanor or a felony did not reoffend while 33 percent reoffended. In 2010, the percent of youth who reoffended decreased slightly to 32 percent while 68 percent did not reoffend.



Females reoffended at lower rates than males in 2010. Twenty-four percent of females reoffended and 35 percent of males reoffended in 2010. This was lower for both genders than in the previous year. In 2009, 27 percent of females and 36 percent of males reoffended.

Felony-level and misdemeanor-level findings or admissions of guilt in 2010 were used as the baseline for this measure. Re-offense was defined as a new felony-level or misdemeanor-level finding or admission of guilt within one year of the original adjudication date. An additional one year follow-up period was required for the processing and adjudication of all new offenses occurring within the re-offense time period. Technical violations were not included in this measure.

RE-OFFENSE RATES BY GENDER



DRUG TESTING

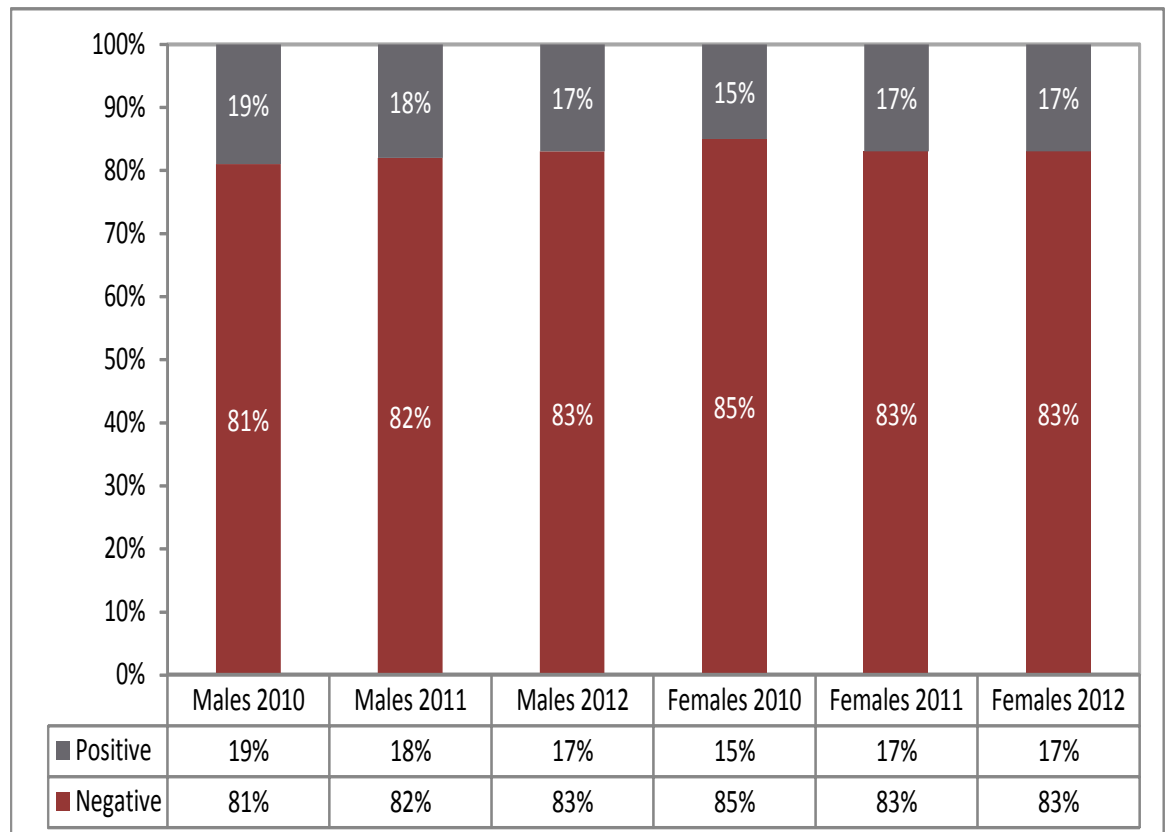
A juvenile offender's resistance to drug use helps the court determine the progress these youth are making toward law abiding behavior. In 2012, 17 percent of drug test results were positive and 83 percent were negative. This was similar to 2011 when 18 percent of drug test results were positive and 82 percent were negative.

Males and females tested positive at the same rate in 2012. In 2012, 83 percent of drug test results for females were negative

and 83 percent of drug test results for males were also negative. From 2011 to 2012, the percentage of positive drug tests decreased by one percent for males and remained the same for females.



DRUG TEST RESULTS BY GENDER



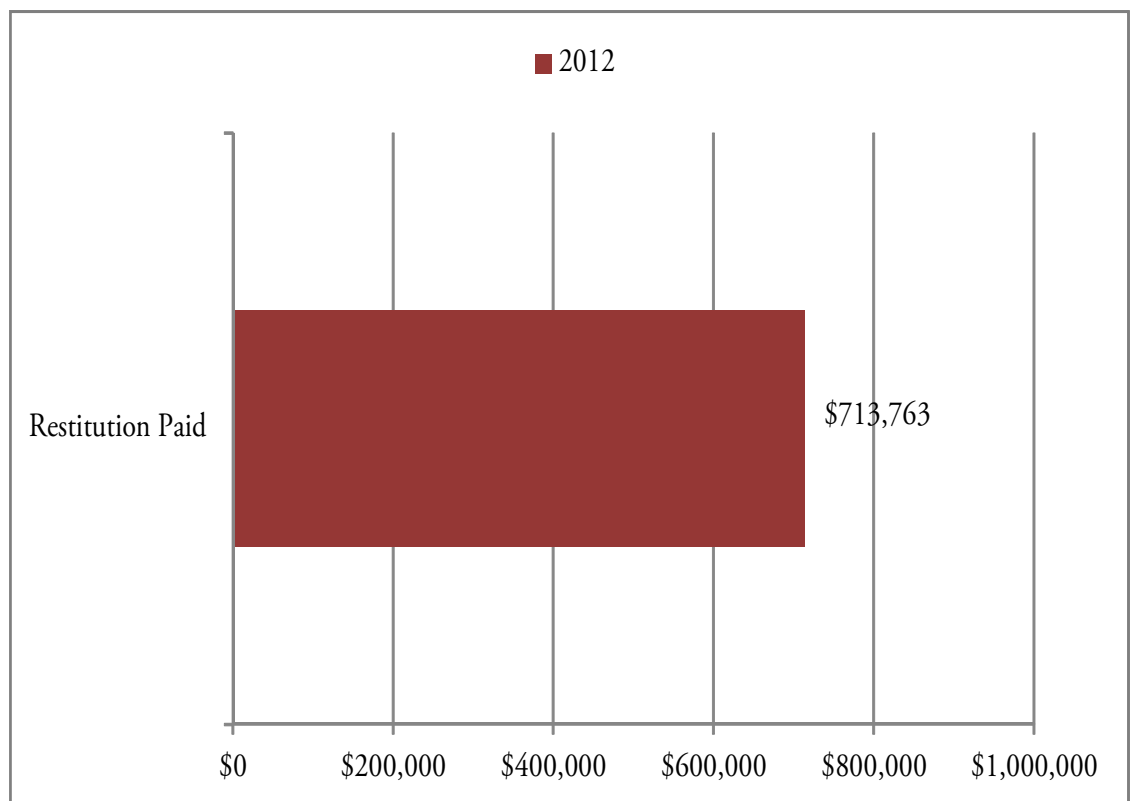
RESTITUTION PAID

An important aspect of holding offenders responsible and providing justice to individuals harmed by crime is the payment of restitution to victims. The payment of restitution is a priority that takes precedence over the payment of all other types of fees or fines ordered by the Juvenile Court.

In 2012, offenders paid more than \$713,000 in restitution to the victims they had harmed. To find out more about the payment of restitution, fines, and fees, please visit our website at www.utcourts.gov/courtools/ and click on the Juvenile Court restitution, fines and fees tab.



PERCENT OF RESTITUTION PAID



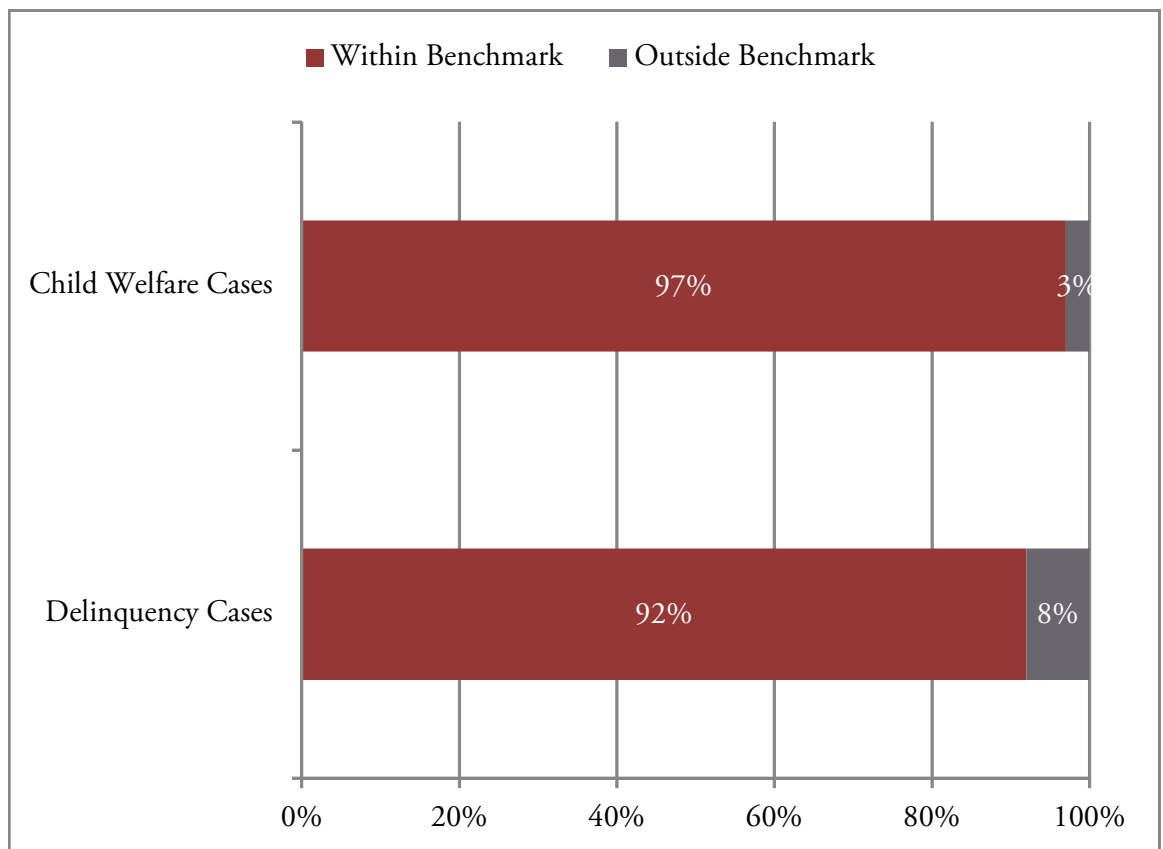
TIMELINESS OF CASES

Resolving cases in a timely manner is an important measure of the Juvenile Court's efficiency and effectiveness. During 2012, 92 percent of delinquency cases were adjudicated within 45 days of the first hearing, meeting the timeliness benchmark for delinquency cases.

In addition to delinquency cases, the Juvenile Court also hears and resolves child welfare cases, which involve children who have been abused or neglected. During 2012, 97 percent of child welfare cases were adjudicated within 60 days of the shelter hearing, meeting the timeliness benchmark for child welfare cases.



TIMELINESS OF CASES



A safe home and safe community for all



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Preparation and printing of this document was financed by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Grant Number 10L11 (2010). Additional assistance and template provided by the National District Attorneys Association. For additional information, please visit our website at www.utcourts.gov.